

ARTICLES,

To be subscribed by the

Amicable Society,

MEETING

At the House of Mr. ROBERT
FRIEND, at the Sign of *the*
Hand and Sceptre, at *Tun-*
bridge Wells, in the Parish of
Speldhurst, in the County of
Kent.

Begun *December* 1744.



L O N D O N :

Printed in the Year MDCCXLV.



30-1-82



The INTRODUCTION.

WHEREAS diverse Persons, who during the Time of their Health are capable, by their Labour and Industry, to maintain themselves and their Families, yet by reason of Sickness, Lameness, or Infirmary, are sometimes reduced to great Poverty, and at their Death often leave their Families in very necessitous Circumstances : We therefore the Subscribers to these Presents; well knowing the Uncertainty of Life and Health, the better to provide against a Time of Sickness or Death, have thought fit to raise a COMMON STOCK by joint Contribution ; for the speedy and effectual Raising, and constant Maintaining whereof, and that it may fully answer the Purposes intended, it is resolved to pursue the following Method, *viz.*

ARTICLE I.

THAT a SOCIETY shall meet at Mr. Robert Friend's aforesaid, or *where ever* the Majority shall think fit to keep their *Common Stock*, on the first *Saturday* in every Kalendar Month; and their Hours of Meeting shall be *from Six of the Clock to Eight* in the Evening, from *Michaelmas Day to Lady Day*; and from *Seven to Nine* from *Lady Day to Michaelmas*.

ART. 2. *Item*, That the Age of any Person to be admitted shall not exceed Forty Years; unless he hath the Consent of a Majority, and is also of a strong healthful Constitution. No Person to be admitted who is any ways weak, sickly, or infirm; and each Person desirous to be admitted, shall be presented by some one of the Members at least one Month before; at which Time he shall answer to such proper Questions as the Steward shall think fit; and, upon his second Appearance, if he shall have the Consent of the major Part of this Society for his Admittance, he shall then pay One Shilling, and spend Six-pence at his Entrance, in case he be admitted before the Stock be increased to Ten Pounds; and after the Stock is so increased, he shall pay the said Sum of One Shilling; and One Shilling for every Ten Pounds that the Stock shall be increased to, at the Time of his Admission:

mission : And then he shall be admitted to sign and seal these Presents, and shall afterwards be conformable, and yield Obedience to every Thing herein contained.

ART. 3. *Item*, That every Member so admitted shall, during his whole natural Life, pay, or cause to be paid, on every Monthly Night, into the *Common Stock*, the Sum of One Shilling; and shall likewise pay the Sum of Three-pence, for his Share of the Reckoning : And if any Person shall be absent, or neglect to pay his Monthly Payment, he shall forfeit the Sum of Three-pence into the *Common Stock*, instead of the Three-pence which he should have spent, if present.

ART. 4. *Item*, That if any Person admitted, and having made Payment, as aforesaid, for the Space of one whole Year, shall happen, at any Time or Times, to be really sick, lame, or infirm, and giving Notice thereof to one of the Stewards for the Time being, or to the Master of the House where the *Common Stock* is kept, and solemnly declaring to the Stewards that he is thereby rendered incapable of getting his Livelihood, then such Person shall receive weekly, and every Week, the Sum of Seven Shillings, to be paid by the Stewards; the first Payment to be made on the Eighth Day after Notice given, (which shall be given the third Day of his Lameness, Sick-

ness or Infirmary) and so on, during the Time of Three Months; and for the next Three Months shall receive weekly Five Shillings; for the next Three Months, Four Shillings *per Week*; for the next Three Months (which makes up the Year) Three Shillings *per Week*; and then to receive Two Shillings and Six-pence *per Week*, during his Infirmary, &c. as aforesaid; provided that such sick Member is within five Miles of the House where the *Common Stock* is kept; but if at a greater Distance, then to produce a Certificate from the Minister and Churchwardens of the Parish where such sick Member then is, setting forth his Sickness, Lameness, Infirmary, &c. and that he is incapable of Business; then such sick Members shall receive the Benefit of the *Society* in as ample a manner as those who reside nearer. And at any Time, when any Member of the *Society*, who hath made good his Payments for one whole Year, shall happen to marry, he shall be presented by the *Society* with a New Brass Warming-pan, of Seven Shillings and Six-Pence Value, within eight Days of his making such his Marriage known to the Stewards for the Time being. And if any Member, qualified as aforesaid, shall happen to die, then his Widow, Executors, or to whom he shall will it, shall receive of the Stewards for the Time being, on the next Monthly Night, the Sum
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of Three Pounds, if within five Years from the Date hereof ; and at the Expiration of five Years then shall receive five Pounds, on the next Monthly Night after his Decease : Towards the making up of which Sum, and to prevent the too great Decrease of the said Stock, every surviving Member shall pay the Sum of One Shilling over and above their Monthly Payments. And if it should happen that by the long repeated Sickness, or by the Death of several Members, the Stock should be much lessened, then it shall and may be lawful for the Stewards, by the Consent of the major Part of this *Society*, to ask and receive of every Member the Sum of Six-Pence *per* Month, additional Payment, or such other Sum as shall be thought necessary for the recruiting the said Stock ; and this to continue for such Time as the Majority of this *Society* shall think proper. Likewise on the Death of any Member, every surviving Member shall accompany the Corpse of such deceased Brother to the Ground ; at which Parish Church shall be a Sermon preached, for which shall be paid out of the *Common Stock* the Sum of Ten Shillings, the next Monthly Meeting ; the Members meeting at such House as the Stewards shall appoint, which shall be the next convenient Public-House to the Deceased, where they shall expend Three-pence. If any Member be absent from a Funeral,

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having due Notice given him of the Time and Place of meeting, twenty-four Hours beforehand, he shall forfeit One Shilling; and if any appear disguised in Drink at a Funeral, he shall forfeit Two Shillings and Six-pence.

ART. 5. *Item*, That there shall be four Stewards of this *Society*, two of which shall be chosen every Quarter-day; and the four Quarter-days shall be, the first *Saturday* in *December*, *March*, *June*, and *September*; and on every Quarter-day, as aforesaid, two that have served half a Year shall quit, and the two next in Course shall serve with the two that remain the other Quarter; and so on, from Quarter to Quarter; two to quit and resign, and two to come into their Room. It shall be a fair Succession, beginning with the first Subscribers to these present Articles, and so on, until it hath gone through the whole *Society*, unless a Person whose Turn it is, shall happen to be sick at such Time, then the said sick Person shall be put by, and the next in course shall serve in his stead, still reserving to the said sick Person the Right of Succession the next Quarter. Each Steward upon his Entrance into that Office shall expend Six-pence; and if any Person whose Turn it is shall refuse to serve, he shall forfeit Ten Shillings and Six-pence.

ART. 6.

ART. 6. *Item*, That the Steward's Office is as follows, *viz.* The eldest or upper Steward shall be ready on every Monthly Night to receive of the Members, as they come into the Room, their Monthly Payments, or any other additional Payments or Forfeitures contained in these Articles, which shall be due and payable to the *Common Stock*; which Payments shall be duly entred in the Book of Accounts, the same Night. The second Steward shall receive of each Member Three-pence, for his Share of the Reckoning; which Reckoning he shall discharge before he depart the Room, or forfeit Ten Shillings. He shall bear in his Hand a white Wand for keeping Silence, also a wooden Mallet; and whoever continues talking after the third Knock on the Table, or a Touch with the Wand by the Steward, shall forfeit Two-pence for every such Offence. The two upper Stewards shall each of them have a Key of the Chest hereafter mentioned, wherein the *Common Stock* and Books of Accounts are to be kept; and if either of them shall neglect to bring or send his Key, in the first Hour of the Club (to be decided by the Glass) on every Monthly Night, he shall forfeit One Shilling; and the two younger ones, for such Omissions shall forfeit Six-pence; and the said two younger Stewards shall assist the elder in the Execution of their Office, and in case of Ab-

fence officiate in their stead. And if either of the said two elder Stewards shall at any Time hereafter so lose or mislay his Key, that the said Chest must be broke open, then every such Steward shall, at his own proper Cost and Charge, repair the same to the Satisfaction of the *Society*. And if either of the Keys belonging to the Chest shall be missing from the Service of the *Society*, whereby the Chest cannot be unlock'd, nor the Books of Accounts come at (unless the Chest be broke open) either, by the Absence of the Steward, in whose Custody the said Key was deposited, or by his neglecting to bring or send it, during the whole Time of the Club Hours, on two Monthly Nights successively, then the said Key shall be deemed lost or mislaid; and the Stewards and Auditors then present may cause the Chest to be broke open, which shall be made good in manner aforesaid, by the Steward in whose Hands the said Key was deposited. Whoever refuses or neglects to comply with this Order, and neglects or delays to make good the said Chest in manner aforesaid, shall be forthwith excluded this *Society*; and if the Stewards shall refuse or neglect to pay duly to any sick Member, or what is hereby appointed to be paid at the Death of a Member, as also on his Marriage, he shall forfeit Ten Shillings.

ART. 7. *Item*, That there shall be two Auditors chosen by a Majority: *viz.* One shall be chosen every Quarter-day, and to continue in his Office half a Year; and the next Quarter-day another shall be chosen younger Auditor; and so on from Quarter to Quarter, he that has served half a Year to quit, and another to be chosen in his Room. They shall keep a Book in their own Possession, of what hath been received into, and paid out of the Chest from the Beginning. They shall audit and pass the Stewards Accounts every Quarter; likewise they shall have the Controll, and see that every Article be put in due Force. And if either of them shall not appear in the first Hour of the Club, he shall forfeit Six-pence; and if the eldest Auditor shall neglect to come or send his Book, on every Club, he shall forfeit One Shilling. And if any Member be guilty of a Crime for which a Fine is not expressly set down, then the Auditor shall fine them at Discretion, but not exceeding Two Shillings and Six-pence for each Offence. No Person shall be chosen Auditor whose Turn it is to serve Steward next Quarter; nor shall any Person be chosen Auditor, until he hath been out of Office one Quarter at least. Whoever, being duly elected, refuses to serve, shall forfeit Fifteen Shillings. The Landlord of the House where the Chest is kept shall never be chosen Auditor.

ART. 8.

ART. 8. *Item*, That if any Member of this *Society* hath any Abuse or Grievance whatsoever put upon him, he shall make no Noise or Brawling with any of his Brotherly *Society*, but he shall enter his Complaint to the Auditors, who shall hear both Sides, and determine the Matter; and they are hereby authorized to lay a Fine, with the Approbation of the Stewards, according to the Offence, but not exceeding Two Shillings and Six-pence. And if any Person, who is not concerned, shall presume to meddle in any such Matter, he shall forfeit One Shilling. If any Person shall talk of Sharing the Stock, or any thing that shall tend to the Dissolution of this *Society*, he shall forfeit Fourteen Shillings. If any Person shall be found guilty of Deceit, in counterfeiting Sickness, or Lameness, he shall be excluded this *Society*; and whosoever shall discover such Fraud, on due Proof made thereof, shall receive, as a Reward, Five Shillings. If any Person shall appear disguised in Drink on a Monthly Night, during the Club-hours, he shall forfeit Six-pence. If any Member shall curse, swear, or give abusive Language, he shall forfeit Three-pence. If any Member shall upbraid any of his Fellow-Members, with having received the Benefit of the Chest, he shall forfeit Five Shillings. If any Person or Persons, who are justly under the Penalties or Forfeitures of these Articles, shall, upon due

due Notice given them by the Stewards, for the Space of Three Months, refuse or neglect to pay the full Demands; or if any Person or Persons shall neglect their Payments due to the *Common Stock*, on any Account whatsoever, for above the Space of Three Months, he or they so refusing or neglecting to pay, shall be forthwith excluded this *Society*. If the Auditors or Stewards shall favour any Person who shall be liable to the Penalties or Forfeitures contained in these Articles, the said Auditors or Stewards shall forfeit Five Shillings each, provided it be proved by two Members of the *Society*. All Forfeitures and Penalties contained in these Articles shall be paid into the *Common Stock*, and not applied to any other Use whatsoever.

ART. 9. *Item*, That there shall be two Feasts every Year, *viz.* on the first *Saturday* in *June*, and the first *Saturday* in *December*, to be kept where the Majority shall appoint; and wherever the same shall be kept, there shall be paid for Dressing Two Shillings and Six-pence, and no more; and for the Paying the Charges thereof, each Member shall pay One Shilling on the Monthly Night preceeding the said Feasts; and the two elder Stewards are to take Care to provide a decent Entertainment sufficient for all the Members, and shall give in the Particulars of the Expence herein to the Auditors, who shall examine the same, and
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make their Report to the *Society*. All the Members, whether present or absent, shall pay the said Sum, except those who receive the Benefit of the Chest at that Time, who shall never be charged with any Fines or Forfeitures whatsoever, saving only their Payment of One Shilling *per* Month, as aforesaid; which shall constantly be paid, as well in Sickness as in Health. And if a Member shall be found at any Time to belong to any other *Society* of the like Nature, he shall be forthwith excluded this *Society*. No Stranger shall be admitted on a Monthly Night, or Feast-day, without Leave of the two elder Stewards, and shall pay as Members. And if any Member of this Society have any thing to offer relating thereto, he shall rise up, and address himself to the Stewards, who having then commanded Silence, he shall speak his Mind, and sit down again in his Place; and then any other Member having any thing to add, or to object against what has been spoken, shall likewise rise up and address himself to the Stewards, and having done shall sit down again in his Place. Only one Person shall speak at a Time, 'till the Debate be ended; then the Stewards shall put it to the Vote: and if any farther Dispute shall arise, and a Poll be demanded, the Auditor or Auditors shall go to a proper Place within the Club-room, and shall call each Member in course, according to the

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Register, to balot for or against the Matter in Question; and, when all have balotted, shall sum up the same, and deliver it to the elder Steward, who shall determine the Case by the Majority. Whosoever shall interrupt another in Time of Debate, in Contempt of this Order, shall forfeit One Penny: or whosoever, when the Matter is determined in manner aforesaid, shall bring the same into further Question or Dispute, shall pay One Shilling; and, in case of Refusal or Contempt, shall be forthwith expelled this *Society*.

ART. 10. *Item*, That if any Member of this *Society* shall remove his Habitation into the Country, where he cannot make his Payments as aforesaid, he shall be excluded; but if any Member goes into the Country, the Distance of thirty Miles, for an uncertain Time, he shall give Notice to the Stewards before his Departure, and pay one Month's Money beforehand; and, making good his Payments once in every Year, and at his Return home repairing to the Chest, and clearing his Arrears, he shall be clear of all Forfeitures, and have a Right to all the Benefits of this *Society*, provided he does not go to Sea, as a Sea-faring Man.

ART. 11. *Item*, That the Stewards shall provide a Chest, to lay up and secure all the Money belonging to the *Common Stock*. They shall likewise provide such Books of Accounts and Writings, as shall be necessary for the true

Stating and Keeping all the Accounts of the *Society*; and the Charge thereof shall be paid out of the *Common Stock*: and if there be any Deficiency of the Stock, the Stewards shall make it good to the succeeding Stewards, when they resign their Office, or be forthwith excluded.

ART. 12. *Item*, That the afore-named *Robert Friend*, or the Person at whose House the said *Common Stock* is kept, shall give sufficient Security upon Bond; and such other Person to be bound with him as the Majority shall approve of; which shall remain in the Keeping of the eldest Auditor, for the Time he continues in his Office, who shall deliver it to his Successor.

ART. 13. *Item*, That on the Decease of any Member of this *Society*, the Clerk shall write so many Tickets as there are Members who do not at such Time receive the Benefit of the *Society*; which Tickets shall be left at the said *Robert Friend's*, (or wherever the *Common Stock* is kept) thirty-six Hours before the Time expressed in the said Tickets, which shall be carried and left at the Habitation of each Member, by a Person chosen by a Majority of the *Society*, and for his Trouble shall receive of each Member one Half-penny; provided the Number of Members be above thirty; but if they do not exceed thirty, then he shall receive of each Person One Penny: In which Tickets are to be

be mentioned the Name of the Deceased, and the Time and Place when and where the *Society* are summoned to meet together, to accompany the Corpse of their deceased Brother to the Ground. No Member shall be liable to any Fine or Forfeiture for being absent from a Funeral, provided he make due Proof, that either such Notice as aforesaid was not left at his Habitation, or given to himself in Person the Night before such Funeral, or sooner. And that the Clerk may have timely Notice on the Death of a Member, to summon the surviving Members as aforesaid; it is hereby ordered and required, that the Widow, or Friends of the deceased Member, shall give sufficient Notice thereof in Writing, or otherwise, at the Place of Abode of the Clerk, within twelve Hours after his Decease; and in case of Neglect herein, it shall and may be lawful for the Majority of this *Society*, the next Monthly Night, to keep back and remaining in the *Common Stock*, such Sum of Money, Part of the Three or Five Pounds appointed by the Articles to be paid to the Friends of the Deceased, as they shall think fit, not exceeding Twenty Shillings.

ART. 14. *Item*, That if the Clerk, having due Notice as aforesaid, shall neglect to give timely Notice, as aforesaid, he shall forfeit Two Shillings and Six-pence, upon Proof

Proof thereof made the next Monthly Night; and the Clerk for writing the Tickets, and sending them as aforesaid, shall be allowed Two Shillings and Six-pence out of the *Common Stock*.

ART. 15. *Item*, That a Clerk shall be chosen by a Majority of the *Society*, who shall be one of the Members, provided any of the Members will accept of the said Office; and the Clerk so chosen shall continue in the said Office as long as he lives, provided he shall so long continue a Member: And the Business of the said Clerk shall be, to keep a Journal and Register of the *Society*, in due Form; and to assist the Stewards in making up their Accounts, and any other Business relating to the Books of the *Society*. The said Clerk shall be obliged to attend every Club-Night during the Hours, if in Health, and not out of Town; or in case of Absence shall forfeit One Shilling for each Monthly Night's Neglect; and the said Clerk shall be allowed a Stipend or Salary of Twenty-five Shillings *per annum*, to be paid quarterly out of the *Common Stock*.

ART. 16. *Item*, That all the Four Stewards shall visit the Sick by Turns; each sick Member shall be visited by them twice a Week, and no Visit shall be made on a *Sunday*. They shall meet every *Thursday* from Seven to Nine of the Clock in the Evening, at the House where the Club is kept, to regulate
Visits

Visits for the succeeding Part of the Week ; and to enquire if any of the Members have given Notice of their being sick ; and if any of them be absent from such weekly Meeting, he shall pay the Share of the Reckoning as if present, but not exceeding Three-pence : and Notice shall be given him by the Landlord of the House, what Visits he is appointed to make that Week. And if any of the said Stewards, whose Turn it shall be, omit visiting the Sick, according as is appointed, upon due Proof thereof made the next general Meeting, shall for such his Offence forfeit One Shilling. But if at any Time a Member shall be sick at a greater Distance than five Miles from the House where the Chest is kept, and after due Notice given it shall be thought proper by the major Part of this *Society* for one of the Stewards to visit him, such Steward shall be allowed what may be thought reasonable by the major Part of this *Society*, for his Time and Expences, out of the *Common Stock*.

ART. 17. That no Person who shall be known to have contracted the Foul Disease shall be capable of being admitted a Member of this *Society*. And as Men who are wicked and disorderly Livers are much more exposed and liable than others, to Sicknefs, Lameness, and Infirmary; it is further agreed, that no Person remarkable for Cursing, Swearing, Profaning the Lord's Day, Fighting,

ing, Quarrelling, Drunkenness, Whoredom, &c. shall ever be capable of being admitted into this *Society*. And if any Member of this *Society* shall be sick, lame, or otherwise infirm, so as the same Sickness, Lameness, or Infirmary shall proceed from the Foul Disease, Drunkenness, Quarrelling, Fighting, and the like, upon Proof made thereof to the Satisfaction of the major Part of this *Society*, such Person, as aforesaid, shall be excluded from any Benefit of the Stock of this *Society*, during such his Infirmary; and shall also pay his Monthly Payments, with all Fines and Forfeitures, as if no such Thing had happened to him; or else, on Refusal of paying the same, shall be expelled this *Society*.

ART. 18. *Item*, That if any Member of this *Society* shall be violently suspected, or notoriously known, to be a Man of an evil and irregular Life, or shall be guilty of Swearing, Quarrelling, Drunkenness, Whoredom, Profaning the Lord's Day, or the like: Or if any Member of this *Society* shall be guilty of evil Husbandry, Profusion or Extravagance in his private Affairs, or careless and neglectful of his Family; then it shall be allowable for the two elder Stewards, and they are hereby strictly required to admonish such Person as aforesaid of his Faults, in a private and secret as well as in a decent and respectful manner; and

if any Person so admonished shall still continue unreformed for the Space of three Months, that then the said Stewards shall once more admonish the Person so offending in Presence of all the Members of this *Society*, at their Monthly Meeting; and if he shall continue obstinate for the Space of three Months from such his being publicly admonished, that then he shall pay the Sum of Five Shillings.

ART. 19. *Item*, That it shall and may be lawful for the Auditors, from Time to Time, and at any Time hereafter, to call together a special Committee, which shall consist of the said Auditors, Stewards, and Clerk, and four Members of the eldest Standing, to consult on Ways and Means for the better Regulation and Preservation of good Order in this *Society*. And whatsoever Alterations, new Laws, and Articles shall by such Committee be thought fit to be constituted and made, shall at the next general Meeting be declared to all the Members of the *Society* then present, by the Majority of whom, if approved, such new Laws and Articles shall be ratified and confirmed, and be from henceforth binding upon all the Members.

ART. 20. *Item*, That, as it is intended to put forth some of the Money belonging to the *Society* to Interest, it is hereby resolved, that if any Member shall discover
to

to whom such Money is lent, he shall forfeit Ten Shillings, on due Proof made thereof; one Half to be given to the Informer, and the other Half to be put into the *Common Stock* of this *Society*.

ART. 21. *Item*, That every Member of this *Society* shall bring their Articles every Feast-day, or forfeit Two-pence; and he that forfeits three times successively, his Articles shall be deemed lost, and he shall buy another of the Stewards, for which he shall pay Six-pence into the *Common Stock*: And every Member who shall hereafter be admitted, shall, upon his Admission, pay Six-pence for the Articles, over and above the Admission-Fine before reserved.

ART. 22. *Item*, That every Steward going out of his Office shall pass his Account before the Auditors, and shall have a proper Discharge from the succeeding Stewards, which Account, if required for Satisfaction, shall be inspected by any Member of this *Society*:

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The Form of the WILL, to be lodged in the Chest.

W ^HEREAS I

SOCIETY, meeting at the Sign of

being a Member of the AMICABLE

at *Turnbridge*

Wells, have a Right to the Sum of

to be paid immediately after

my Decease unto my Widow ; or in case I have no Widow, then unto whom I shall will it : I therefore will and appoint, that the said Sum of

be paid unto

, and that h

Receipt for the same shall be a

sufficient Discharge unto the said SOCIETY. Witnesses my Hand this Day
of
Anno Dom.

